

Please add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

Claim 8. (New) Excipient in preparation intended in particular for a pharmaceutical field, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4.

Claim 9. (New) Excipient for powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4.

**CONCLUSION**

Favorable action is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telecommunication numbers listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

Claim 6. (Amended) Excipient in preparation intended in particular for a pharmaceutical field, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to Claim 1 [or pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4].

Claim 7. (Amended) Excipient for powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to Claim 1 [or pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4].